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Origin

Info

In press conference today Department spokesman gave background re helicopter forced down in East Germany and made following statements in response inquiries:

1. We have no reason believe Soviet authorities will not assume responsibility for dealing this case and will not correctly arrange with American military authorities for return of helicopter and passengers. Since 1945 practice has been for US, British, or French military authorities assume full responsibility for Soviet military personnel who have entered their areas of military jurisdiction without authority and vice versa.

2. No note from East Germans has been received. Such message would be meaningless in any case for US does not recognize East German puppet regime and regards Soviet authorities as ~~competent~~ competent deal with matters of this sort.

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By KAM NARA, DAW 2/1/92

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